

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13

SSM-03 /103 W

-----066221 171425Z /41

R 170650Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7034

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION BERLIN

CINCEUR

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2080

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, AG, CU

SUBJECT: RAUL CASTRO VISITS ALGERIA

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0876 (NOTAL)

1. CUBAN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT RAUL CASTRO BEGAN AN EXTENSIVE VISIT TO ALGERIA AUG 8. BOTH CASTRO AND HIS WIFE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN HEAVY ROUND OF CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDING VISIT TO CHERCHELL MILITARY ACADEMY, MERS EL KEBIR NAVAL INSTALLATION NEAR ORAN, ARZEW PETROLEUM COMPLEX, AND NEWLY OPENED ALGIERS CENTER DOCUMENTING ALGERIAN RESISTANCE TO FRENCH COLONIALISM.

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PRESS HAS BEEN BILLING CASTRO AS "GENERAL," HE HAS BEEN IN UNIFORM THROUGHOUT PUBLIC APPEARANCES, AND HIS IMMEDIATE HOSTS HAVE BEEN MILITARY (COUNCIL OF THE REVOLUTION MEMBER AND SECOND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER COLONEL CHADLY HAS ACCOMPANIED CASTRO ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS). MRS. CASTRO TAKEN IN HAND BY ALGERIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION.

2. SUBSTANCE OF CASTRO'S VISIT HAS INCLUDED MEETING AND LUNCH WITH BOUMEDIENE AND SESSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY SECY GEN LATRECHE AND SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC DEFENSE MINISTER BRAHIM GHALI. ACCORDING TO ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE, CASTRO TOLD GHALI THAT CUBA SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLES AND FEELS "MILITANT SOLIDARITY" WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES IN AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA.

3. LENGTH AND BREADTH OF RED CARPET ROLLED OUT FOR CASTRO HAS INSPIRED MUCH SPECULATION HERE, AND VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONFUSING TO ALGERIANS THEMSELVES. OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE NOTED PRESENCE OF SEVERAL APPARENTLY HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS WITH CASTRO AND WONDER IF SOME NEW DEPARTURE IN ALGERIAN-CUBAN MILITARY RELATIONS IS CONTEMPLATED. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH VISIT AS NEARLY AS WE CAN DETERMINE, HAVE MAINTAINED THAT ONLY FIRST TWO DAYS OF VISIT WERE OFFICIAL AND THAT BALANCE OF CASTRO'S STAY WAS PRIVATE. THIS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT SINCE CASTRO'S SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS HAS BEEN AS HEAVY IN LATTER PART OF VISIT AS AT BEGINNING.

4. AT MOMENT, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT CASTRO'S VISIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS MORE THAN LATEST IN SERIES OF ENCOUNTERS DESIGNED TO SHOW WORLD HOW CLOSE ALGERIAN-CUBAN RELATIONS ARE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOPE MORE CONCRETE INFORMATION ON WHAT, IF ANY, SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED.
HAYNES

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770855/aaaabubo.tel
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